

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, for making a computer perform the steps of:

initializing ~~[[a]]~~an image transmission system, comprising

- connecting an image pickup apparatus and a memory card to a key generating apparatus;
- transmitting an identifying number from the image pickup apparatus to the key generating apparatus;
- registering the identifying number from the image pickup apparatus at the key generating apparatus and at an authentication server;

generating an encryption and decryption key unique to the image pickup apparatus;
then
requesting that the authentication server authenticate a user and authenticate that a user can
access the image pickup apparatus device;
authenticating the user and image pickup apparatus in response to the requesting step;
connecting the image pickup apparatus to a viewing apparatus;
comparing the identification number in the memory card to the identifying number of the
image pickup apparatus;
obtaining the decryption key from the memory card;
transmitting an image request from the viewing apparatus to the image pickup apparatus;
receiving an image from the imaging pickup apparatus at the viewing apparatus;
decrypting images received from the image pickup apparatus device using the decryption
key;
displaying the decrypted images on the viewer.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program, stored on a computer readable medium,
~~method of claim 18, for making a computer perform the further step of~~comprising:

accessing the authentication server from ~~[[a-]]~~the viewing apparatus using a username and
password.

20. (Currently Amended) An image transmission system for transmitting an image via a
network, comprising:

an image pickup apparatus connected to a key generating apparatus, comprising:

a recording unit for storing an identifying number and an encryption key from the
key generating apparatus;

the key generating apparatus, comprising:

a network interface for registering the identifying number from the image pickup
apparatus at an authentication server;

a recording unit for storing the identifying number from the image pickup apparatus;

an encryption key generation unit for generating an encryption and decryption key unique to the image pickup apparatus;
an interface for storing the decryption key in a removable storage medium;
an image viewer comprising:
an interface for requesting that the authentication server authenticate a user and authenticate ~~[[an-]]the image pickup apparatus device~~-accessible by the user, and connecting the image pickup apparatus to the viewing apparatus;
a memory interface for obtaining the decryption key from the removable storage medium;
a decrypting unit for decrypting the images received from the image pickup ~~apparatus device~~ using the decryption key;
a display unit for displaying the decrypted images on the viewer; and
an authentication server for authenticating the user and image pickup apparatus in response to an authentication request.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the authentication server authenticates the user of the viewing apparatus using a username and password associated with the image pickup apparatus.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)